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*Ausschuss für auswärtige Angelegenheiten  
Der Vorsitzende*

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22.10.2025

Herrn Javier Zarzalejos  
Vorsitzender  
Ausschuss für bürgerliche Freiheiten, Justiz und Inneres

Betrifft: Opinion on the proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on information security in the institutions, bodies, offices and agencies of the Union (COM(2022)0119 – C10-0121/2022 – 2022/0094(COD))

Sehr geehrter Herr Vorsitzender,

Sehr geehrter Herr Zarzalejos,

Under the procedure referred to above, the Committee on Foreign Affairs has been asked to submit an opinion to your Committee. During the meeting of 13 January 2025, the Coordinators of the Committee on Foreign Affairs decided to send the opinion in the form of a letter. The Committee on Foreign Affairs adopted the opinion during the 16 October 2025 Committee meeting<sup>1</sup> and called on the Committee responsible to incorporate the following suggestions into its report.

In a moment of rapid geopolitical changes combined with an evolving threats environment, the Union's information security is increasingly put at risk. International crises demonstrate the need for the EU to obtain credible and first-hand information on current and possible external threats to the Union, in order to be able to react rapidly and effectively, as well as to

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<sup>1</sup> The following were present for the final vote: David McAllister (Chair), Mika Aaltola, Pascal Arimont (Member under Rule 216(7)), Fernando Barrena Arza, Robert Biedroń, Luboš Blaha, Marc Botenga, Grzegorz Braun, Sebastião Bugalho, Jaroslav Bžoch, Tobias Cremer, Henrik Dahl (Member under Rule 216(7)), Danilo Della Valle, Elio Di Rupo, Tomasz Froelich, Michael Gahler, Niels Geuking (Member under Rule 216(7)), Christophe Gomart, Hanna Gronkiewicz-Waltz (Member under Rule 216(7)), Bernard Guetta, Sandra Gómez López, Michalis Hadjipantela (Member under Rule 216(7)), Andrzej Halicki, Rima Hassan, Mircea Gheorghe Hava, Marc Jongen (Member under Rule 216(7)), Łukasz Kohut, Rihards Kols, Sergey Lagodinsky, Iliia Lazarov (Member under Rule 216(7)), Antonio López Istúriz White, Liudas Mažylis, Vangelis Meimarakis, Sven Mikser, Hannah Neumann, Jan Christoph Oetjen (Member under Rule 216(7)), Kostas Papadakis, Tonino Picula, Chloé Ridel, Nela Riehl, Iliaria Salis, Mounir Satouri, Andreas Schieder, Stanislav Stoyanov, Marie Agnes Strack Zimmermann, Sebastiaan Stöteler, Nacho Sánchez Amor, Villy Søvndal, Marta Temido, Ivaylo Valchev, Petar Volgin, Nicola Zingaretti, Milan Zver, Dainius Žalimas (Member under Rule 216(7)).

better protect its citizens and its interests abroad. Foreign interference and disinformation are also posing a real danger to EU democratic processes and Union institutions, bodies, offices and agencies should receive the adequate means and resources to face these new challenges.

From a foreign affairs and security perspective, and as underlined in several Parliament's resolutions on the implementation of the Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP), Parliament should be provided with the necessary information and documents in a transparent and timely manner in order to properly fulfil its important role of democratic oversight. This is why strengthening and harmonising of the categorisation, handling and storage of EU classified information and for non-classified information is key.

AFET welcomes this timely Commission proposal, which is part of the EU Security Union Strategy adopted by the Commission in July 2020 as Union institutions, bodies, offices and agencies need to be equipped with an appropriate common high level of security for EU classified information and for non-classified information. Also, AFET welcomes the fact that the proposed regulation intends to create a minimum set of rules and aims to establish an inter-institutional information security coordination group, a necessary step towards the harmonisation for ensuring a smooth implementation of an EU information security culture.

Notwithstanding this effort to facilitate and harmonise the protection of information in EU institutions, bodies and agencies, Parliament recalls the urgent need to upgrade the inter-institutional framework for Parliament's access to confidential information in the field of the CFSP.

On this basis, AFET proposes that the following elements are included in the draft report:

1. The above-mentioned elements regarding the institutional prerogatives need to be properly clarified in Article 32: while the originator control is an undisputable principle, the text should be better formulated as it should not prevail over the Treaty prerogatives. Article 54 of the proposal is incomplete in the same manner, as it does not refer to the rights and obligations under the Treaties that an EU institution has as the basis for sharing EU classified information.

2. The proposal should clarify that Members of the European Parliament should have access by virtue of their mandate to all necessary information on the basis of the 'need-to-know principle' in order to exercise the powers vested to them by the Treaties. Therefore, the proposal should include the following new paragraph:

*“(new paragraph). Members of the Union institutions should have access by virtue of their mandate to all necessary EU confidential and sensitive non-confidential information, on the basis of the ‘need-to-know principle’ and in respect of the rules for personal security clearance, in order to exercise the powers vested to them by the Treaties.”*

3. A mechanism should be established how to deal with cases of over-classification of the information, notably in the form of consultations and a final decision between the originator and the recipient of the information.

4. Foreign interference and disinformation are posing a real danger to EU democratic

processes and Union institutions, bodies, offices and agencies should receive the adequate means and resources to face these new challenges. The proposal should include the following new paragraph:

*“(new paragraph). When developing and implementing their document security framework, Union institutions and bodies shall safeguard the integrity of EU democratic processes. They shall adopt, inter alia, specific provisions in tender procedures to curb the risk of foreign interference in their functioning. Such provisions shall at least address the acquisition and maintenance of security infrastructure, the vetting of third party organisations and the clearance of staff.”*

5. LIBE Committee as the Committee responsible should reconsider whether the establishment of the category of “NORMAL” information (Article 13 of the proposal) provides sufficient benefits that would outweigh the additional administrative requirements that would arise from the creation and application of this category of information and its distinction from “PUBLIC USE” information.

Mit freundlichen Grüßen

David McAllister

## **ANLAGE: ERKLÄRUNG ZU BEITRÄGEN**

Der Vorsitzende erklärt unter seiner ausschließlichen Verantwortung, dass er in seine Stellungnahme keine Beiträge von Interessenvertretern, die in den Anwendungsbereich der Interinstitutionellen Vereinbarung über ein verbindliches Transparenz-Register<sup>1</sup> fallen, oder von Vertretern von Behörden von Drittländern, einschließlich ihrer diplomatischen Vertretungen und Botschaften, aufgenommen hat, die gemäß Anlage I Artikel 8 der Geschäftsordnung in dieser Anlage aufgeführt werden müssen.

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<sup>1</sup> Interinstitutionelle Vereinbarung vom 20. Mai 2021 zwischen dem Europäischen Parlament, dem Rat der Europäischen Union und der Europäischen Kommission über ein verbindliches Transparenz-Register (ABl. L 207 vom 11.6.2021, S. 1, ELI: [http://data.europa.eu/eli/agree\\_interinstit/2021/611/oj](http://data.europa.eu/eli/agree_interinstit/2021/611/oj))